

LAAC: Weekly Leadership Update
January 4, 2019

Luis Figueroa will join the LA RA team this week and once we get through the strike, we will be reassessing team leads on workstreams. Stay tuned!

Agenda

Questions in YELLOW

1. North Star: Long-Term Facilities Use Agreements
 - No new questions.
2. North Star: Renewal Criteria & Performance Framework
 - No new questions – We expect District movement on this priority to be stalled over the next two weeks. Updates below.
3. North Star: Authorizing Policy & Oversight
 - No new questions.
4. North Star: BD5 Representation
 - This week, we began working with CCSA colleagues on our BD5 campaign plan, which could include weekly events hosted by schools in BD5. We have found that by giving schools more ownership and accountability for campaign turnout that we get greater turnout.
 - We believe leadup events will complement the advocacy week strategy agreed to by the LAAC – do you have any reason to believe that it would undermine or hurt turnout to advocacy week?
5. Sub-Priority: Locally-Led Legislative Advocacy
 - Cristina, understanding that you may have had a conflict, do you know yet if you will be able to attend the rescheduled Back to Session event in Sacramento on 1/22?
6. Sub-Priority: Strike Preparedness
 - No new questions.
7. Ad Hoc Sub-Priority: Charter Community CAO Supports
 - We would like to revisit this topic next week. We haven't heard back from all LAAC members on their leads and need to follow up.
8. Ad Hoc Sub-Priority: Enrollment Committee
 - We would like to convene after the strike.
9. Ad Hoc Sub-Priority: LAAC Leadership Transition
 - Can we put time on the calendar with Myrna to discuss this next week?
10. Additional Updates:
 - LAAC January Step Back Meeting (General)
 - What topics would you like to set for discussion/review at the January step back meeting? Suggested topics from last month's LAAC and our subsequent follow-up meeting included:
 - LAAC Leadership Transition
 - Macro-Political Environment/BD5 Election
 - Re-Imagining L.A. Unified Plan
 - Enrollment Challenges
 - Strike Plans
 - Renewal criteria
 - April meeting moved to Sacramento?

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Pre-Reading

North Star: Long-Term Facilities Use Agreements

Create a formal and sustainable system for long-term facilities use agreements between LAUSD and charter schools beginning in the 2019-20 school year, where long-term is defined to be petition co-terminus or longer, by establishing a clear change in facilities policy.

- **Current Strategy:**
 - Our strategy is to maximize opportunities aligned with LAUSD leadership (e.g., Superintendent Beutner and Board Vice President Melvoin) and their facilities-related priorities. In doing so, we will strategically challenge the District's assertion that long-term facilities use agreements are legally untenable under Prop 39 while expeditiously pursuing other viable paths toward implementing multi-year agreements.
- **What Happened Last Week:**
 - During the last week of December, we met with Danielle Tenner from the Office of the Board Vice President, Nick Melvoin, to review co-location data collected and aggregated by CCSA. BD4 was appreciative of the data, particularly data suggesting that Prop 39 co-locations impact less than 8% of district campuses, and all charter agreements impact only about 11% of campuses. BD4 is going to review the data to help inform their thinking around multi-year and/or expedited Prop 39 pilot programs. BD4 shared that they have begun work on "test" cases with CWC Hollywood, Ocean, and APEX to lock-in their current co-location footprints for the next ~18 months.
- **What's Happening Next Week:**
 - We will begin aggregating another data point around enrollment status at some of the most long-standing co-locations (e.g., at petition capacity? At location capacity? Room to grow?). BD4 indicated a window from February to April in which they see the best opportunity to move on the pilot programs.
- **Working Group Updates:**
 - No updates.

North Star: Renewal Criteria & Performance Framework

In the absence of updated statewide criteria, secure LAUSD charter renewal criteria that prioritizes student academic outcomes and – only when necessary – considers multiple measures but does not substitute academic achievement with non-academic outcome measures of limited value.

Secure a performance framework that lays the foundation for system-wide school improvement through a similar focus on student academic achievement. At a minimum, charter renewal criteria will remain protected as LAUSD adopts a performance framework for all public schools.

- **Current Strategy:**
 - We will continue to document the need for consistent feedback and pushback on unreasonable benchmarks at CSD and with Board Members. We will influence the performance framework through District working groups, direct conversations with the superintendent's team, and with our Board members to ensure that academic outcomes are the core of any performance framework that influences renewal.
- **What Happened Last Week:**
 - Recommendations for 5 renewals were published, with 4 recommended for approval and one recommended for denial. Three of the recommendations include benchmarks,

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- two of which are academic and repeat the same concerns we've seen in the past (unreasonable, questionable data, tied to further revocation, etc.).
- o All is quiet on the SPF for the moment. With the District's reimagining townhalls postponed and all attention focused on the strike, we expect there to be little movement here in the next two weeks.
- **What's Happening Next Week:**
 - o We will continue to ID this challenge for Board members. After this week, we'll have only 2 renewal votes remaining, which will allow us to pivot toward solutions for next year, rather than fighting benchmark-by-benchmark.
- **Working Group Updates:**
 - o No new updates.

North Star: Authorizing Policy & Oversight

Fundamentally improve the authorization and oversight experience for LA charter schools and the relationship between authorizer and charter schools in LA by securing structural reforms at LAUSD. In addition, continue to monitor OIG activity as it relates to LAUSD authorized charter schools.

- **Current Strategy:**
 - o Our strategy is to build the case that CSD fails to efficiently and competently implement existing authorization and oversight policy and support a call for systemic structural and personnel within CSD.
- **What Happened Last Week:**
 - o Earlier this week, LAUSD postponed its remaining "Re-Imagining L.A. Unified" town hall tour dates on January 8, 9, 10, and 12, ostensibly due to the pending strike. Following resolution of the strike, we will evaluate the landscape and return to grasstops efforts, particularly with the Superintendent's office, to explore opportunities to strategically re-position the District's Charter School Division within LAUSD.
- **What's Happening Next Week:**
 - o We will monitor CSD's activity as oversight reviews commence again in late January and, in particular, will monitor a potential OIG investigation related to Community Prep Academy.
- **Working Group Updates:**
 - o No new updates.

North Star: BD5 Representation

Maintain a kids-first local authorizing environment by securing: 1) interim appointment of a representative who supports the Superintendent and aligned board members; and 2) A special election primary in March; 3) LAAC alignment with a PAC.

- **Current Strategy:**
 - o LA RA is working with CCSA's Civic Affairs, Operations, and Organizing teams to prepare for the March 5 primary election.
- **What Happened Last Week:**
 - o During the last week of December, CCSA Advocates announced the no endorsement for the primary. The announcement received limited media coverage and attention on social media, little of which was overtly negative. While candidates were surprised by our announcement, we believe there is little risk of long term damage to candidate relationships.

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- o This week, we brainstormed the basics of a campaign plan with CCSA cross teams. The plan would involve weekly events located at some schools in BD5 at which parents and staff would engage in a volunteer activity of their choice, like non-partisan phone banking, canvassing, and voter registration drives. We would do a series of these events and cap them off with the LA Advocacy Week in the week prior to the election.
- **What's Happening Next Week:**
 - o We are pausing all candidate cultivation/school visits until the resolution of the strike, but we continue to plan candidate cultivation efforts. We will build out the basis for the school-level event plan in advance of the January LAAC step-back, but we will largely hold off on intensive planning and operationalizing until the conclusion of the strike.
- **PAC Updates:**
 - o N/A

Sub-Priority: Locally-Led Legislative Advocacy

Influence CCSA's legislative agenda so it aligns with issues that matter to our local membership.

- **Current Strategy:**
 - o Build local influence over CCSA legislative advocacy priorities in advance of legislative session through direct engagement of LAAC and broader charter community.
- **What Happened Last Week:**
 - o Committee announcements were publicized, and they're not good for charter schools: Senator Ben Allen stepped off of Education and was replaced by Connie Leyva, a strong charter opponent who represents a district in east LA County / San Bernardino County that has little charter presence. In the Assembly, Christy Smith replaces Tony Thurmond on Education. Assemblywoman Smith represents northwest LA County but few schools beyond Granada. She is expected to be an opponent.
 - o CCSA is working on identifying authors for two bills: one to secure on-going LCFF funding for the lowest-performing subgroup; and one to incentivize inclusion practices.
 - o The SPI Action Team received word that a) the draft report is finalized, with most of our major concerns addressed; b) only the two co-chairs will sign, not individual task force members; and c) co-chairs Carl Cohn and Susan Bonilla are seeking a sit-down with Superintendents Torlakson and Thurmond to discuss. We wait
- **What's Happening Next Week?**
 - o No major updates expected.

Sub-Priority: Strike Preparedness

Maintain a kids-first local authorizing environment by securing: 1) interim appointment of a representative who supports the Superintendent and aligned board members; and 2) A special election primary in March; 3) LAAC alignment with a PAC.

- **Current Strategy:**
 - o LA RA is monitoring mediation while helping schools answer operations questions to stay open during a strike.
- **What Happened Last Week:**
 - o This week, UTLA and LAUSD agreed to come to the bargaining table once more on January 7, as UTLA continued the escalation of their anti-charter rhetoric. We expect

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that next Monday's bargaining session will yield little, and we continued to prepare for a strike by reaching out through member calls, mass emails, and individually communicating with all LAUSD-located schools.

- **What's Happening Next Week?**
 - Next week, we will work with members to address any individual concerns and communicate our members across LAUSD about our plans to support schools during the strike. During the strike, our full team will be providing member support in real time. In addition, we will work with CCSA cross teams to issue responses to local and national media requests. We will respond and mobilize members in the moment if necessary should UTLA or aligned leaders attempt to bargain charters or put a local charter cap in place through a school board resolution.

Additional Updates

Enrollment

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PCNR:

- **ICEF Inglewood MS:**
 - As of this week, ICEF has not yet submitted its renewal petition to Inglewood Unified and it does not appear that they will make the January 16, 2019 agenda for their petition vote. However, we will continue to monitor the board agendas. ICEF shared with us their overall advocacy strategy, which includes a focus on the holistic student, family, and community supports they have implemented in conjunction with programmatic support from Harvard and UCSF around serving African-American students. ICEF would certainly like CCSA to acknowledge this area of its work notwithstanding our PCNR position, but, in the absence of any such support, will likely try to paint CCSA's PCNR position as narrow and limited in basis (e.g., performance data only) and not a look at how the school is serving the community and under-served African American students.

LA County

- LA County schools have secured a sit-down with Superintendent Duardo for January 17.
- We are working on LA County Advocacy Council kick-off logistics. Do any of the following dates/times work for either or both of you to participate in a portion of that meeting:
 - W., 1/23: 2-4
 - Th., 1/24: 2-4
 - F., 1/25: 2-4

Personnel:

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